On page 21, line 16, delete "application" and insert -- applications --.

On page 24, line 2, after "tend", insert -- to --.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 7, 9, 12-15, 21, and 23 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method comprising:

calling a scheduling driver to start an Input/Output (I/O) request to a device [for an application];

determining if the device is busy; and

if the device is not busy,

providing an estimated processing time (EPT) for the I/O request to be completed [for the application].

7. (Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising, providing the I/O operation results from the I/O request [to the application] if the I/O request has been completed.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising, calculating an estimated processing time remaining (EPTR) for the I/O request to be completed, if the I/O request has not been completed, and providing the estimated processing time remaining (EPTR) [to the application].

12. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising calculating an estimated amount of time left (EATL) until the device will be available [to the application] if the device is busy, and providing the estimated amount of time left (EATL) [to the application].

13. (Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL);

calling the scheduling driver to start the I/O request to the device [for the application] after sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL); and

determining if the device is still busy.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

determining if the device is still busy and calculating the estimated amount of time left (EATL) until the device will be available, if the device is still busy;

sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL);

calling the scheduling driver to start the I/O request to the device [for the application], after sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL); and

if the I/O request has not been started,

repetetively performing the above operations until the I/O request has been started.

15. (Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform operations comprising:

calling a scheduling driver to start an Input/Output (I/O) request to a device [for the application];

determining if the device is busy; and

if the device is not busy,

providing an estimated processing time (EPT) for the I/O request to be completed [for the application].

21. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 19, further comprising the operation of providing the I/O operation results from the I/O request [to the application] if the I/O request has been completed.

23. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 19, further comprising the operations of calculating an estimated processing time remaining (EPTR) for the I/O request to be completed, if the I/O request has not been completed, and providing the estimated processing time remaining (EPTR) [to the application].

26. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 15, further comprising the operations of calculating an estimated amount of time left (EATL) until the device will be available [to the application] if the device is busy, and providing the estimated amount of time left (EATL) [to the application].

27. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 26, further comprising the operations of:

sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL);

calling the scheduling driver to start the I/O request to the device [for the application] after sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL); and

determining if the device is still busy.

28. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising performing the operations of:

determining if the device is still busy and calculating the estimated amount of time left (EATL) until the device will be available, if the device is still busy;

sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL);

calling the scheduling driver to start the I/O request to the device [for the application], after sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL); and

if the I/O request has not been started,

repetetively performing the above operations until the I/O request has been started.

CONCLUSION

Please enter the amendments for the following claims: 1, 7, 9, 12-15, 21, 23, and 26-28.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at our Costa Mesa office by telephone at (714) 557-3800. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 31, 2000

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on: July 31, 2000.

Susan McFarlane — *Date* 07/31/00